

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 149185

16

ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-03 CU-05 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 VO-03 SCA-01 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 AID-20

/098 R

DRAFTED BY EA/VN:LPETERS:SK

APPROVED BY EA/VN:RHWENZEL

----- 080876

R 102344Z JUL 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 149185

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY: NGUYEN HUU THAI

REF: STATE 110274

1. SENATOR HUMPHREY HAS ASKED FOR REPORT ON POSSIBILITY THAT NGUYEN HUU THAI COULD DEPART RVN TO TAKE POSITION AS VISITING PROFESSOR AT HAMLINE UNIVERSITY OF MINNEAPOLIS THIS FALL. DEAN OF UNIVERSITY HAS WRITTEN SENATOR SAYING THAT THAI HAS ACCEPTED POSITION BUT HAS ASKED HAMLINE'S HELP IN OBTAINING EXIT VISA.

2. BIO SKETCH OF THAI WRITTEN BY HAMLINE PROFESSOR RICHARD KAGAN STATES THAT NEITHER HE NOR THAI WOULD WISH TO PRESENT THAI'S CASE AS BEING "IN ANY WAY UNIQUE OR SEPARATE FROM THE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF OTHER VIETNAMESE HELD AS POLITICAL PRISONERS." SKETCH NOTES THAI EMERGED AS A LEADING OPPOSITION STUDENT LEADER IN 1963-65 AFTER WHICH HE WAS IMPRISONED 1966-68. LATER DRAFTED, THAI IS SAID TO HAVE RUN UNSUCCESSFULLY FOR LOWER HOUSE SEAT IN DANANG 1971, THEN ENGAGED IN OPPOSITIONIST JOURNALISTIC ACTIVITY AND WAS FINALLY ARRESTED ON "TRUMPED UP
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 149185

CHARGE" OF INVOLVEMENT IN NGUYEN VAN BONG'S ASSASSINA-

TION. BIO SKETCH SAYS MRS. BONG PUBLICLY DENIED THAI'S INVOLVEMENT BUT THAT GVN HAS KEPT HIM UNDER AN TRI DETENTION SINCE THAT TIME. SKETCH SAYS "INFORMAL WORD"

HAS IT THAI'S CASE WOULD BE REVIEWED LATE APRIL 1974 AND HIS SENTENCE POSSIBLY CHANGED TO ASSIGNMENT TO REMOTE MILITARY POST OR HOUSE ARREST IN SAIGON. SKETCH ADMITS THAI DOES NOT HAVE NORMAL ACADEMIC CREDENTIALS BUT CLAIMS THAT HIS UNIQUE EXPERIENCES WILL ENABLE HIM QTE TO COMMUNICATE SUCCESSFULLY WITH AMERICAN STUDENTS. UNQTE

3. BIO SKETCH SAYS GVN AUTHORITIES WILL PROBABLY DENY THAI AN EXIT VISA, QTE HOWEVER, FORMAL REQUESTS COMING FROM SEVERAL DIFFERENT LOCATIONS, COMBINED WITH SUSTAINED PUBLIC PRESSURE VIA THE US CONGRESS, MAY ALTER THEIR RESPONSE, IF FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN BECAUSE THIEU IS MORE DESPERATE THAN EVER FOR FOREIGN AID MONEY. UNQTE

4. DEPARTMENT COMMENT: FOREGOING, PLUS REP MCCLOSKEY INQUIRY (REFTEL), SUGGESTS CAMPAIGN A LA MME NGO BA THANH'S 1973 COLUMBIA FELLOWSHIP MAY BE ABUILDING.

5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHATEVER INFORMATION EMBASSY CAN PROVIDE ON THAI'S IMPRISONMENT AND CURRENT STATUS IN ORDER TO RESPOND TO THESE CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES. KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LECTURERS, LEGISLATIVE MAIL, UNIVERSITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: martinml
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE149185
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: LPETERS:SK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740184-1040
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740760/aaaabzdr.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 110274
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinml
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Aug-2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2003 by martinml>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY: NGUYEN HUU THAI
TAGS: PINT, VS, US, HAMLINE UNIVERSITY, (HUMPHREY, HUBERT H), (NGUYEN HUU THAI)
To: SAIGON
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005